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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 18, 2008

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Regional DUI “Crackdown on Country Roads” Is This Weekend
2 DUI Checkpoints and 77 Saturation Patrols Scheduled

Dover – Crashes in rural areas account for 56 percent of the nation’s traffic fatalities, even though just 23 percent of the population lives there. Even more disturbing, in 2006, over half (55 percent) of impaired driving related fatalities were in rural areas. So this weekend, the Delaware Office of Highway Safety and Delaware law enforcement are joining their counterparts in the region (MD, VA, WV, D.C., KY, and NC) for a DUI “Crackdown on Country Roads” August 22 – 24. In addition to conducting sobriety checkpoints and DUI saturation patrols in urban areas, law enforcement is placing a special emphasis on secondary roads.

“Our message is simple. No matter where you drive – country roads or urban highways – from Fenwick Island to north Wilmington, if we catch you driving impaired, we will arrest you.” said Lisa, Shaw, Impaired Driving Program Coordinator for the Office of Highway Safety. “Impaired drivers often think they’re safer on back roads. They either believe that they can avoid running into a checkpoint or that officers won’t be looking for them there.”

Delaware law enforcement officers are scheduled to conduct 2 sobriety checkpoints and 77 DUI saturation patrols this weekend (Aug. 22 – 23). The checkpoints are part of the region’s ongoing *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign and the saturation patrols were added as part of the National Impaired Driving Crackdown: *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.* which runs through Labor Day.

On Friday night the NcCo DUI Task Force will conduct a sobriety checkpoint in Wilmington and on Saturday night, the Seaford and Laurel Police Departments will conduct a joint checkpoint in the Seaford area.

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